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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/981,790	10/19/2001	Todd J. Mortier	7528.0003-01	6743

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EXAMINER

WILLSE, DAVID H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3738	

DATE MAILED: 02/05/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Offic Action Summary	Applicati n N .	Applicant(s)
	09/981,790	MORTIER ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Dave Willse	3738	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 18-79 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 31-44 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 18-30 and 45-79 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

Claims 31-44 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention or species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in Paper No. 7.

The Applicant has failed to specifically point out the support in the original disclosure for each of the newly presented claims 18-79 (M.P.E.P. 714.02) and must correct this deficiency in response to the instant Office action.

In the Information Disclosure Statement of February 4, 2002, certain references were not considered because a concise explanation of the relevance (37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)) and/or a complete identification of the document, including date of publication (37 C.F.R. § 1.98(b)(5)) was not presented.

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The continuation data to be inserted at the beginning of the specification is erroneous (wrong serial number), and the associated patent number should also be included. Appropriate correction is required.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 45, 50, 51, 53-58, 63, 64, and 66-69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lederman et al., US 5,800,528. Since the Lederman et al. passive girdle decreases most or all portions of the left and right ventricles, especially over an extended period of time, altering a position of a papillary muscle associated with the mitral valve, for example, would have been inherent.

Claims 18-30, 45-72 and 75-79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Vetter, DE 42 34 127 A1. Regarding claim 18 and others, drawing together leaflets of the valve (last two lines of said claim) would have been inherent from the fact that elongate members from a single papillary muscle head 5 region are collectively anchored at *both* leaflets of the mitral valve 2 (Figure 1). Regarding claim 45 and other, the geometry of the heart chamber is altered via the presence of the prosthesis itself and by virtue of the tension induced in the elements 4 and 10 and acting on the chamber wall and/or the papillary muscles. Regarding claim 47 and others: attention is directed to the plastic fibers 10 and the seam ring 3 in Figure 3.

Regarding claim 52 and others, the seam ring **3** and the central section **6** serve to draw together the leaflets **2** so as to form a competent valve.

Claims 73 and 74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vetter, DE 42 34 127 A1. Anchors at *both* ends of elongate members **4** and **10** would have been obvious, if not inherent, from the use of anchor elements **8** at one end (as depicted in Figure 2) in order to firmly secure the elongate members at both ends.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

US 5,360,444: figures; column 4, lines 50-62; etc.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dave Willse, whose telephone number is (703) 308-2903. The supervisor, Corrine McDermott, can be reached at (703) 308-2111. The receptionist's phone number is (703) 308-0858, and the main FAX numbers are (703) 305-3591, 3590.

dhw: D. Willse
January 31, 2003


DAVE WILLSE
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3738